

PRELIMINARY REPORT

2015: E11 – *Mason Road*

APPLICANT: Harris County Engineering Department

KEY MAP: 405, 406

JURISDICTION: Harris County

LAMBERT: 4560

DISTRICT/PRECINCT:

Harris County Pct.: 3

PROPOSAL:

Harris County is requesting the realignment of Major Thoroughfare Mason Road, between Beckendorff Road/West Little York and Clay Road, on the Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP).

APPLICANT'S JUSTIFICATION and HISTORY:

The applicant contends that development activity is accelerating in this area following the opening of Grand Parkway Segment E in 2013. A General Plan has been submitted in 2014 for Westfield Village to the east of Mason Road. Mason Road right-of-way (ROW) has not been dedicated, nor is there an existing road for this segment of Mason Road. The realignment of Mason Road may need to have two 1,500 foot radii curves to create a 90-degree intersection at Kieth Harrow Boulevard to match the existing pavement at Clay Road and to not impact the adjacent Mason Lakes Sec 3 subdivision. The applicant also states that a variance from Chapter 42 ordinance would be needed when this property is platted.

The applicant contends that the amendment request for the realignment should be considered because the current alignment places the intersection of Kieth Harrow Boulevard/Mason Road within 600 feet of the Grand Parkway-Kieth Harrow Boulevard overpass. Although there is an existing overpass for the Grand Parkway over Kieth Harrow/Stockdick School Road, built in 2013, this is potentially problematic if a diamond or cloverleaf interchange is constructed in the future. Eastbound traffic on Kieth Harrow Boulevard would be backed up because of the signal at Mason Road. This realignment should also be considered for the Mason alignment to have 90-degree angles at Clay Road and Kieth Harrow Boulevard, as well as to not be in immediate proximity to the Grand Parkway.

The applicant states that frequent access connections and closely spaced traffic signals are a recipe for congestion on major roadways. This could also cause vehicle crashes due to the queuing of vehicles caused by the congestion.

Mason Road existed as an unnamed thoroughfare on earlier MTFPs. In 1969, a small thoroughfare segment between FM 529 and Kieth Harrow Boulevard, along the west side of the Grand Parkway, was created. This segment then extended further in 1979. The proposed Mason Road alignment existed as a Major Thoroughfare from Botkins Road to US 90A (South Main Street). In 2002, the Grand Parkway alignment was further defined; it overlaid the Mason Road alignment from Kieth Harrow Boulevard to West Road.